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Argentine Human Rights Chronology

1976

- March - Government of Isabel Peron overthrown by Military Junta headed by General Videla.
- Spring - Terrorism and counter-terrorism rampant, with terrorist toll rising most steeply.
- May - ARA Deputy Assistant Secretary Ryan calls in Argentine Ambassador to discuss political violence, disappearances and murders of political refugees from Chile and Uruguay.
- June - Secretary Kissinger meets with Argentine Foreign Minister at OAS Assembly in Santiago.
- June - ARA Assistant Secretary Shlaudeman raises human rights concerns with Argentine Economy Minister.
- July - ARA Assistant Secretary Shlaudeman raises continued kidnappings of refugees with Argentine Ambassador.
- August - USG protests Argentine government's failure to grant prompt consular access to American priest, held for two weeks by Argentines for alleged leftist sympathies.
- September - U.S. Ambassador warns President Videla that U.S. support for Argentine projects in IFIS is endangered by human rights.
- September - Congressman Fraser holds hearings on Argentina. GOA complains that Argentine witnesses have links to terrorists.
- October - Acting Secretary and Assistant Secretary Shlaudeman discuss human rights with Argentine Foreign Minister.
- October - Secretary Kissinger notes desirability of human rights improvement to Foreign Minister.
- October - USG protests treatment of American citizen Gwedma Mae Loken Lopez, who declared credibly that she was tortured. She was arrested for distributing Communist Party literature.

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date

Declassify on

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1976

- October - Argentina establishes Human Rights Working Group in Foreign Ministry to channel queries from embassies.
- November - Deputy Assistant Secretary Bray discusses negative impact of human rights on bilateral relations with Argentine Charge.
- November - Amnesty International team, including Congressman Drinan, visits Argentina.
- December - Argentina begins to publish lists, albeit incomplete ones, of those arrested and released under state of siege powers of Executive.
- December - ARA turns down first Munitions Control license: ammunition for state intelligence service.
- December - Argentina agrees to ICRC inspections.

1977

- February - ARA turns down tear gas for Argentine Navy.
- February - Secretary Vance informs Congress that Administration's request for FMS credits for Argentina is being cut to \$15 million because of human rights situation.
- February - Deputy Secretary Christopher informs Argentine Charge that our relationships cannot be sustained without human rights change.
- March - Argentina rejects FY 1978 FMS credits. Probability grows that FY 1977 financing agreement (\$30 million) will not (and was not) be signed.
- March - U.S. parole program underway in Argentina to benefit 200 families from Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay who fear persecution.
- April - Human Rights Coordinator Derian visits Argentina, meets with wide spectrum of opinion and presents U.S. human rights policy to senior Argentine officials.

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1977

- April - Wide range of small arms cases disapproved for Argentina because of relationship to internal security.
- May - HA begins to hold up virtually all new arms transfer applications for Argentina.
- May - Congressional action underway on Argentina leading to passage of Roybal Amendment, eliminating grant military training beginning on October 1, 1977, and Kennedy/Humphrey Amendment, barring new arms transfers after October 1, 1978.
- May - Argentine Foreign Minister bludgeoned and shot in head by terrorists. (He survived miraculously and is recuperating in United States, after bullet fragments were removed from his brain at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Two other Argentine military personnel maimed by terrorists are recuperating in U.S. military installations.)
- June - The Secretary meets with Foreign Minister Montes and urges him to work for restoration of due process.
- August - Assistant Secretary Derian calls on President Videla, Admiral Massera and Interior Minister Harguendeguy and asks them to follow up on restoring rule of law.
- August - Assistant Secretary Todman visits Argentina, calls on the President, Foreign Minister and others. Presses need for human rights improvements.
- September - President Videla meets with President Carter during Panama Canal Treaty Signing. They discuss human rights with Videla, expressing hope for major improvement by Christmas.
- September - Under Secretary Cooper informs Minister Martinez de Hoz of U.S. concern over human rights in Argentina.
- October - President Carter writes President Videla stating interest in improved human rights.

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1977

- October - Argentines reinstate a modified "right of option" which allows political detainees to opt for exile instead of jail.
- November - Deputy Secretary Christopher informs Argentine Foreign Vice Minister that U.S. relations with Argentina greatly influenced by human rights question.
- November - Secretary Vance calls on President Videla and other Junta members as well as Foreign Minister. Discusses need to restore rule of law and makes appeal on specific cases.
- November - Ambassador Castro arrives and begins calls on government leaders including in all discussions a strong argument for human rights' improvements.
- December - 13 people including two Frenchmen are abducted in BA in operation directed against "Mothers of the Plaza." French government strongly protests.
- December - Government releases some 300 political prisoners in Christmas amnesty.

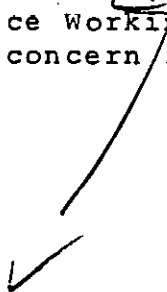
1978

- January - Assistant Secretary Todman informs Argentine Ambassador that U.S. concerned over the disappearance of 13 "Mothers of the Plaza" and other abductions attributed to the Armed Forces.
- January - Ambassador Castro meets with Interior Minister Harguindeguy on "right of option" for political prisoners.
- February - Argentines begin publication of lists of political prisoners.
- February - OAS IAHRC requests GOA for permission to visit Argentina (There has not yet been a response).
- March - Army decides not to change anti-terrorist procedures until after the World Cup.

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1978

- April - General McAuliffe and Ambassador Castro call on General Videla and remind him of continuing U.S. concern over human rights. Videla assures them the war against subversion is ended and that Argentina is working towards restoration of rule of law.
- March - "Brooke Amendment" allowing previously approved military transfers to take place after September 30 arms transfer cutoff.
- March - Jacobo Timerman released to house arrest (U.S., including President Carter and Secretary Vance had made appeals on his behalf).
- March - Jewish community hall bombed injuring one person. Action reopened question of GOA's attitude toward Jews.
- April - Several groups of Jehovah's Witnesses are arrested, but soon released, for meeting. (The group is illegal).
- April - Disappearances and abductions appear to have decreased.
- Continuing Basis - Over the last two years the U.S. has presented more than 1,000 names to the Argentine Foreign Office Working Group on Human Rights, expressing our concern for their disappearance or detention.
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